
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 462

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CONNECTICUT WINE AT FARMERS' MARKETS AND ESTABLISHING A FARMERS' MARKET WINE PERMIT.

SUMMARY:

This bill creates a farmers' market wine sales permit that allows farm wineries to sell wine they manufactured on their premises under a manufacturer's permit and other specified conditions. Under the bill, a municipality may ban, by ordinance or zoning regulation, wine sales at a farmers' market by farmers' market wine sales permittees.

The law allows liquor permittees to hold only one permit, unless they are specifically exempted. Currently, a manufacturer's permittee for a farm winery can hold an in-state transporter's permit, a wine festival permit, or any combination of such permits. The bill adds the farmers' market wine sales permit to the exemption, thus allowing a manufacturer's permittee for a farm winery to hold any of these permits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

FARMERS' MARKET WINE SALES PERMIT

The bill requires the consumer protection commissioner to issue a farmers' market wine sales permit to a farm winery when the permittee submits proof he or she is in compliance with the farm winery manufacturing permit statute. The farmers' market wine sales permit authorizes the farm winery to sell wine it manufactures at up to three farmers' market locations a year for an unlimited number of appearances. The permittee must (1) have an invitation from the farmers' market; (2) sell wine only by the bottle; and (3) be present, or have an authorized representative present, anytime wine is sold.

The permit is valid for one year and requires an annual fee of \$250,

with a \$100 nonrefundable filing fee.

Under this permit, wine sales are allowed from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday through Saturday, but not allowed on Sunday or when the farmers' market is not open to the public. Any town may, by town meeting vote or ordinance, reduce the wine selling hours.

The bill also authorizes any municipality, by ordinance or zoning regulation, to prohibit the sale of wine by a farmers' market wine sales permittee at a farmers' market held in the municipality.

BACKGROUND

Farmers' Markets

A farmers' market is a cooperative or nonprofit enterprise or association that consistently occupies a given site throughout a season. It must operate principally as a marketplace for farmers to sell Connecticut-grown fresh produce or farm products to consumers. Farm products that are sold must be produced by farmers with the sole purpose of generating a portion of household income.

Related Bill

sSB 994, favorably reported by the Environment Committee, is identical to this bill.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/15/2011)